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The Times' Daily Short Story.

His Two Smiles

(Original.)

Owen Harding possessed a genial disposition, which was concealed under a forbidding countenance. The corners of his mouth were drawn down, and when he smiled they refused to be drawn up. The consequence was a mingling of a smile in the eye and a crusty look about the mouth that was by no means pleasing. Harding possessed a very good mind. He was original and entertaining, but this, especially among young people, counted for nothing. When he perpetrated a witticism accompanied by what in another would have been a droll expression the result was a combination of smile and acerbity that was very unpleasant.

One girl only seemed to be able to chat with Harding without laughing at him, Rebecca Payne. But Miss Payne was the daughter of a poor clergyman and merely tolerated in society—well, because she had neither wealth nor that faculty of assumed graciousness to the members of her set which in society people is often accompanied by ungraciousness to those without their set. She was, however, intellectual, and some of the more appreciative members took her up. But none of the socially prominent young men paid her any attention, and this was a back-set for her. When it was noticed that the only attendant she could rely upon was Harding her fate, socially considered, was sealed.

Harding's occupancy of the social position to which he was entitled was confined to one winter. The next society saw him no more. He disappeared for five years. At the end of that period one of the aristocratic churches of the place where he had been born and reared needed a minister. The "pillars" had heard of a young man, a Mr. Cummings, who was electrifying the elect in another city and sent him an invitation to preach. The reverend gentleman appeared one Sunday morning in the pulpit, and the moment certain members of the congregation looked at him they whispered to one another, "How like Owen Harding and yet how unlike him!"

Mr. Cummings after announcing his text closed the Bible and without a scrap of memoranda delivered the finest sermon that had ever been heard in that church. Once when using a humorous illustration he smiled. That smile captivated every woman present, and there was not a girl unspoken who did not resolve that if Mr. Cummings were called and accepted the call she would set her cap for him, for it was known that he was both unmarried and rich.

When the congregation left the church there was a hum of praises intermingled with query and counter query from those who had known Harding as to whether he and Cummings could possibly be one person. Then it was learned that the clergyman's name was

Harding-Cummings, the latter name having been taken to fulfill the provisions of a fortune. This settled it that Cummings was none other than Owen Harding, who had been the laughing-stock of his acquaintances for a diabolical smile that had since become seraphic. A thousand tongues were set babbling not at the young minister's eloquence, but at the transformation of his facial expression. As people gazed asked concerning a newly risen literary star, "Where did she get that style?" so it was asked concerning the Rev. Harding-Cummings, "Where did he get that smile?"

Mr. Cummings became the pastor of the church, and fifty young ladies in and out of the congregation, all socially prominent, made a dead set for him. It must not be supposed that Mr. Cummings' eloquence or his heavenly smile would have alone led these young ladies to covet him for a husband. It was the eloquence and the smile supported by his great wealth. The minister showed no preference for any of them, which made the race all the more exciting. Young women who five years before had made no attempt to conceal their laughter at his unfortunate expression when he made a droll remark did not now scruple to remind him of their enjoyment of what they called his sparkling wit. The clergyman smiled pleasantly on them, although one of his best friends remarked that it was to be hoped he had his old smile at home, where he might put it on after some of these flattering reminders.

Mr. Harding-Cummings had been pastor of the church a year, and the battle of the beauties for his possession was at its hottest when the brigade was panic-stricken by the announcement that he had gone away to be married. His bride lived in a far distant land—her father having gone out as a missionary—and therefore no invitations to the wedding were issued, only announcement cards. When several months later the groom brought his wife home there was consternation on the features of some of the older belles as they recognized Rebecca Payne. And well they might tremble, for Mrs. Cummings became at once a prominent woman in society and set the stamp of her disapproval on every one of them who had laughed at her husband's misfortune.

"How in the name of conscience," asked one of several gentlemen smoking after a dinner party, "did Harding get rid of that diabolical expression he once wore?"

"I can enlighten you," said a prominent surgeon. "I carved it out of him."

At the moment the reverend gentleman referred to entered the room and overheard the reply.

"The doctor made a very good job of my case," he said. "I'm thinking of employing him to make a similar transformation in a psychological way among the more hardened sinners of my congregation."

F. A. MITCHEL.

Give the Dog a Chance.

"Splendid 'ouse dog, that, ma'am," observed the fancier, as he brought forward a half-fad, yellow-coated canine. "Comes o' the right stock, that dog does. 'Is father accounted for eight-and-twenty burglars, and the force was so grateful that they 'ad 'im stuffed, and give 'im the place of honor in the piece museum."

The timid-looking old lady was not proof against such imaginative eloquence and in two minutes she was the poorer by £5 10s. and the richer by a hungry, guaranteed burglar-worrying mongrel. When she bounced into the shop two days later her appearance warned the fancier to look out for squalls.

"You told me that animal was a good house dog," she commenced, in dangerously even tones. "A hundred pounds' worth of plate was stolen from my house last night, and that apology for a protector didn't make a sound. You're nothing but a cheat, sir, and the law sh—"

"Old 'ard, ma'am," interrupted the proprietor of the dog shop; "you're a runnin' past yourself. I sold you that there dog as a 'ouse dog, and a jolly good 'ouse dog 'e is. Course," he continued, "if you'd-a-mentioned a plate dog I could-a-suited yer AI; but you can take it from me, ma'am, that if the chaps as stole your plate had so much as pinched the roof o' the 'ouse, Growler would 'a' made mince-meat of 'em."

London Tit-Bits.

RECEIVING STOLEN PROPERTY.

Is the Charge Brought Against Harris London of Burlington.

Burlington, March 16.—Harris London, proprietor of a second hand store, was arraigned in city court yesterday afternoon on the charge of receiving stolen property. His case was continued until this afternoon, bail being fixed at \$500, which he furnished, Joseph Rosenberg and Sam Kinkostein becoming his bondsmen.

The specific charge against London is buying the truck and tender brasses which were stolen recently from the Central Vermont railroad.

The warrant alleges that London knew they were stolen property. Three men are now in jail on the charge of the theft, Nelson Latour, Oliver Latour, who has pleaded guilty, and Jacob Mitchell. The brass is valued at \$50.

MARSHFIELD.

Mrs. Helen Loveland is expected to return from her work in Barre next Friday.

Mrs. Albert Lamberton was ill the first of the week, but is better at this writing.

O. L. Remis has engaged to work for the coming season for Henry Waldo, on the Haskins farm.

The Marshfield Creamery Co. is improving the interior of the creamery with a new coat of white paint.

The Bathhouse Sisters work one degree next Saturday evening. It is expected refreshments will be served.

Mrs. Kate Rosebrook went to Montpelier Tuesday morning, where she has an engagement for several weeks, as nurse.

Mrs. W. H. H. Meers went to St. Johnsbury last Monday to remain in the home of her daughter, Mrs. L. P. Slack, for a short time.

Mrs. Bertha Hill of Lancaster, N. H., widow of the late Leo N. Hill, with her two children is visiting at the home of her father-in-law, Horace Hill, for a few weeks.

Everett Carpenter returned from Williamstown March 3rd, after having taken two months' treatment of Dr. Martin. "Brim" seems much improved in some ways.

The school directors, O. H. Smith, S. H. Unwin and Lee Townsend, met with S. H. Unwin last Saturday evening and elected the following officers for the ensuing year: Chairman, O. H. Smith; clerk, S. H. Unwin, and O. H. Smith was chosen school superintendent.

The funeral service of the late Mrs. Geo. Carpenter was held at the home Sunday afternoon at 1 o'clock. Rev. Hillard of the Congregational church of Cabot officiated, assisted by Rev. Back of the Marshfield M. E. church. Music was furnished by a quartette from the latter church.

We would like to laugh at the man who was to carry his neighbor's milk to the creamery, loaded two out of three cans, took the "butter pliff" off the third can, and drove to town free from care. The neighbor had to harness his own team and take the remaining can. We wonder where Clark's mind was that morning.

PLAINFIELD.

Mrs. Cairn Blaisdell died March 7th, 1905, at the home of her sister, Mrs. Melissa I. Ladd, at the age of 58 years, of consumption. Again death has taken from our midst one loved and esteemed for her sterling Christian character, the beautiful traits of which become more apparent to her neighbors and intimate friends as years went by. She lived in the capacity of housekeeper for W. J. Batchelder, who, with her sister, at whose home she has been for some time, kindly and faithfully watched over and cared for her through the long weary months of her illness. Her nature was quiet and retiring, but strong and firm in her convictions of right, as a friend loved and trusted. She battled diseases, hoping to win the victory, but at last death conquered. The funeral was held at the M. E. church, Rev. G. H. Wright officiating, assisted by Rev. L. L. Sheaff. Burial was at the cemetery in the center. The bearers were: Theron Moore, Waldo Perkins, Frank Perkins and W. J. Batchelder. The funeral was largely attended from Barre, Montpelier, East Montpelier, East Calais, and many of her friends from Marshfield. The floral offerings were beautiful: Pileus, brother and sister; tulips and hyacinths, Mrs. Clara C. Page, Barre; carnations, Mrs. L. C. Batchelder, Barre; roses, Mrs. G. M. Spencer, St. Johnsbury; roses and lilies, Eldon H. Ladd and wife, Chicago; flowers, Mrs. R. Q. Richards, Calais; flowers, Mrs. R. Q. Richards, Calais; Jane Clark, Abbie Clark, Mrs. Olive Townsend, Mrs. E. F. Leavitt, Mrs. Ruth Laird, Mrs. Arch Batchelder, Mrs. Mary Boole, pinks, Mrs. Dean Willis; H. Q. Perry; pinks, W. C. T. U.

Promising Young Stallion.

At the recent big horse sale held in Chicago fancy prices were paid for well-known horses which are related to Approval, the promising young stallion owned by R. A. Davis of Northfield. Red-lac, 2:08½, by Allerton, and half brother to Approval, sold for \$7,100, the highest price brought by any horse at this sale. Norwich, 2:27, son of Onward and sire of the grand-dam of Approval, brought the next highest price, \$6,170. Egolst, sire of dam of Approval, although 20 years old, sold for \$875. These facts must be most gratifying to Mr. Davis as they indicate that his horse is of the bluest of the blue blooded of the turf favorites and that their progeny are highly valued and eagerly sought by those desiring thoroughbred horses.

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IN HUB MARKETS

Quotations on the Leading Products in Demand.

Boston, March 15.—In sympathy with New York and western markets, butter has declined sharply, while trade continues rather quiet, even at the decline. Northern creamery, 27¢@28¢; western, 26¢@27¢; dairy, 25¢@26¢; storage creamery, 26¢@27¢.

Cheese is very firm, and prices have advanced, though closing steady. York state, 13¢@14¢; Vermont twins, 13¢@14¢.

The cold weather prevents any sharp decline in eggs, though the tendency is downward, and outside markets have already got nearer to the usual spring basis. Choice nearby, 29¢@30¢; eastern, 27¢@28¢; western, 27¢@28¢.

Beans are quiet but steady, at quotations. Carload lots, pea, \$1.00@1.05; medium, \$2.20@2.25; yellow eyes, \$2.40; red kidneys, \$3.35; California small white, \$2.50@2.55; jobbing prices, 10¢@15¢ higher.

There has been a good lively business in the local fruit and produce market during the past week, and as supplies have cleaned up well the market has a firm tone. Receipts of potatoes have been running heavy for some time; the trade has not taken hold very freely, supplies have accumulated and prices have declined till good stock brings considerably less than half what it did at this time a year ago.

Fancy apples are wanted, but they are scarce and command high prices. Strawberries are coming in more freely from the south; choice stock is in steady demand and finds a ready sale.

Cabbages are firmer, though rather plenty. String beans do not bring the extreme prices of a week ago. Lettuce has advanced and onions are very firm. Offerings of turnips are larger, but prices are not lower. Spinach is rather scarce and commands full quotations. Rhubarb has declined a cent; or two. New bunch beets are now in the market and asparagus grown in local hot-houses and California is offered. Squashes are steady and celery firm. Sweet potatoes are steady.

Potatoes—Aroostook Green mountains, 38¢@40¢ a bu; Hebrons, 35¢@38¢; Dakota reds, 35¢; sweets, Vineland, \$4.40@4.50 a bbl; Jerseys, cloth-heads, \$3.50; double-heads, \$3.35; bskts, \$1.20@1.65.

Onions—Native, \$1.25 a bu; Bermudas, \$2.80 a crt; leeks, 50¢ a doz bchs. Turnips—Yellow, \$1.25@1.50 a bbl; white, 75¢@81¢ a bu; French white, \$2 a bag.

Spinach, etc.—Hothouse spinach, \$1.50 @2.75 a bu; Norfolk, \$4.40@4.50 a bbl; hothouse dandelions, \$1.62½ a bu; beet greens, \$1.12½ a bu.

Cabbages—Drumhead, \$1.75 a bbl; savoy, \$1.50@1.75 a bbl; red, \$1.41@1.25 a box.

Lettuce, etc.—Hothouse lettuce, \$1.50 @2.75 a box of three doz heads; chicory, \$1.50 a doz heads; romaine, \$1 a doz heads; mint, 50¢ a doz bchs; water-cress, 75¢ a doz bchs; parsley, 50¢ a bu.

Celery—White, \$1.41@1.25 a bch; pascal \$2.62@2.50 a doz bchs; Boston market, \$3 @3.50 a doz bchs.

Beans—Southern string beans, \$10 a crt; butter beans, \$10 a crt.

Squashes—Turban, \$1.25 a bbl; marrow, \$1.50 a bbl; Hubbard, \$2.00@2.50 a ton. Miscellaneous—Asparagus, native hothouse, 60¢@75¢ a bch; California, \$1 a bch; new bunch beets, \$2.25 a doz bchs; old beets, 75¢ a bu; carrots, 50¢@60¢ a bu; parsnips, 75¢@81¢ a bu; cucumbers, \$4.40@4.50 a box; eggplants, \$1.50 @2 a doz; radishes, 30¢@35¢ a doz bchs; artichokes, \$1.50 a box; tomatoes (Florida), \$3.50@4 a crt of six bskts; hothouse, 50¢ a pound; southern peppers, \$3 @3.50 a crt; hothouse rhubarb, 50¢ a pound; California cauliflower, \$3.75@4 a crt.

Apples—Kings, fancy table stock, nominal at \$5.00 a bbl; common, \$1.50@2.50; northern spires, extra fancy, \$5.00@6.00.

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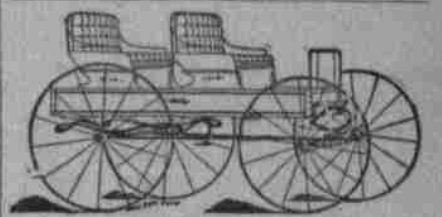
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